

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 ARAE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-05

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P 311445Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8782

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2120

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, HA

SUBJ: RESIGNATION ATTEMPT OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

1. ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT KNOWN FOURCAND MENTIONED HIS RESIGNATION ATTEMPT TO LIPSCOMB, FOURCAND DID TELL EMB ECONOFF THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT BECAUSE HE COULD NOT PROPERLY PERFORM HIS FUNCTION IN VIEW OF MACHINATIONS OF DOMESTIC TEXTILE INDUSTRY. FOURCAND CLEARLY TOOK PRESIDENT'S REJECTION OF RESIGNATION AS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE INDISPENSABLE TO HIS FURTHER EFFECTIVENESS (MUCH AS PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY PETIT HAS PERIODICALLY SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION IN ORDER TO FORCE A DECISION).

2. FOURCAND TOLD ECONOFF THAT, ACCORDING TO ONE RUMOR NOW CIRCULATING, HE HAD ENCOURAGED THE EXPRESSION OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS AT A DINNER TO WHICH HE HAD INVITED ME AND THAT I WAS UNHAPPY WITH HIM. FOURCAND SAID (AND ECONOFF HEARTILY AGREED) THAT SUCH A REPORT WAS RIDICULOUS, BUT HE NOTED THAT IT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE REALLY VICIOUS ATTACKS TO WHICH HE IS BEING SUBJECTED.

3. COMMENT: IN MY VIEW FOURCAND SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION IN ORDER OBTAIN ESSENTIAL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT FOR THE AGREEMENT AS INITIALED. IT IS LIKELY THAT FOURCAND PASSED THE RUMORS TO LIPSCOMB AND CARBONE SO EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON WILL UNDERSTAND
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DELAY IN SIGNING AGREEMENT. FROM INDEPENDENT SOURCES IN TEXTILE

INDUSTRY WE KNOW THAT FOURCAND HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASINGLY SEVERE PRESSURE FROM INDUSTRY, SO RUMORS RELECT A POLITICAL FACTOR OF SUBSTANCE. IN ANY CASE, FOURCAND MADE CLEAR IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY ECONOFF AND PRESUMABLY WITH LIPSCOMB AS WELL THAT HE HIMSELF PLACED NO RPT NO CREDENCE IN THESE RUMORS, BUT ON CONTRARY CITED THEM AS EVIDENCE OF LENGTHS TO WHICH OPPONENTS OF MULTIFIBER AGREEMENT WERE PREPARED TO GO.

ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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